



## Oregon Meat Processing & Capacity Building Grant Program Frequently Asked Questions

The Oregon Department of Agriculture was allocated, by the 2020 special session of the Oregon Legislature, funding to start-up an Oregon State Meat Inspection Program.

### **WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THE MEAT PROCESSING GRANT?**

The primary purpose of this grant program is to expand meat processing capacity in Oregon for livestock raised in Oregon.

### **WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO APPLY?**

All parties with establishments in Oregon (or establishing facilities in Oregon) under a grant of inspection by a federal or state meat inspection program.

### **ARE MEAT PROCESSORS, WHO ARE PLANNING TO COME UNDER USDA INSPECTION, ELIGIBLE?**

No, only those facilities currently under USDA inspection or those planning to come under the new State Meat Inspection Program will be eligible for this grant.

### **DO APPLICANTS NEED TO BE INSPECTED BY THE STATE MEAT INSPECTION PROGRAM?**

No, applicants under a federal inspection (USDA) are eligible if they can demonstrate that the improvements will increase the slaughter or processing of livestock raised in Oregon.

### **DOES THE GRANT HAVE FUNDING PRIORITIES?**

The grant prioritizes meat processing establishments that improve the availability of slaughter and other meat processing in regions of the state with limited service.

### **HOW DO I LEARN MORE ABOUT THE GRANT?**

For more information about the grant, please visit the Oregon Meat Initiative webpage (<https://oda.direct/MeatProcessing>) or contact Gary Neuschwander at [Gary.Neuschwander@oda.oregon.gov](mailto:Gary.Neuschwander@oda.oregon.gov) or call 503-551-1706.

### **DOES THE GRANT PROGRAM SUPPORT EXPANDING THE PROCESSING OF ALL TYPES OF MEAT?**

The grant funds improvements or construction of establishments for processing meat from the following types of livestock: cattle, sheep, swine, goats, reindeer, elk, deer, antelope, water buffalo, bison, buffalo, yak, or camelids. The grant does not cover the processing of, for example, poultry or rabbits.

### **WILL HAND DELIVERED APPLICATIONS BE ACCEPTED?**

Yes, we will accept hand-delivered applications at the Oregon Department of Agriculture office in Salem by appointment only. Contact Gary Neuschwander (503) 551-1706 and arrange an appointment to drop off an application. In addition, Gary Neuschwander will accept applications by appointment on March 17-19, 2022, at the NW Meat Processors Association conference.

**DO I NEED TO ACTUALLY NEED TO COME UNDER THE STATE MEAT INSPECTION PROGRAM?**

Yes. If you apply for the grant indicating that you have meat processing facility that is not currently under USDA inspection and plan to make upgrades to come under the new State Meat Inspection Program, the expectation is that you will come under the State Meat Inspection Program within the grant period (by the end of June 2023).

**I'M CURRENTLY INSPECTED BY ODA, HOW IS THE STATE MEAT INSPECTION PROGRAM DIFFERENT?**

Current meat licensing within Oregon is limited to either 'retail exempt' or 'custom exempt' activities. [Retail exempt sales](#) are limited to the sale of inspected meat products to the end consumer. Custom exempt activities are limited to the slaughter and processing of meat animals for the exclusive personal use of the animal owner. Custom meat may not enter commerce. The new Oregon State Meat Inspection Program (OSMIP) will offer inspection authority and service within the state of Oregon that is equal to that provided by the FSIS. As a result, any meat processed under the OSMIP and sold within the state of Oregon is offered the same privileges and exemptions as USDA inspected meat products.

**CAN I GET THE GRANT FOR A MOBILE SLAUGHTER UNIT?**

Yes, if you are planning to come under the State Meat Inspection Program with the mobile slaughter operation. (Please note that currently all current mobile slaughter units in Oregon are operating under a custom exempt license from ODA. To come under the new Oregon State Meat Inspection Program, a unit would need to meet requirements equivalent to the USDA FSIS requirements.)

**ARE "CASH" AND "IN-KIND" CONTRIBUTIONS REQUIRED FOR THIS GRANT?**

No. Additional Investments in the project of your money and time beyond the requested grant funds are not required but including them in the grant application does give a clearer picture of project scope, applicant commitment and potential impact.

**CAN I APPLY FOR A PORTION OR PHASE OF A BIGGER PROJECT?**

Yes, the requested grant funds are to be expended and purchases delivered by June 2023 and it may be necessary to limit the grant application to a portion of the project that can be completed within the grant period.

**I INDICATED ON THE GRANT APPLICATION THAT I WILL BE OPERATING UNDER THE STATE MEAT INSPECTION PROGRAM, DO I NEED TO BE SIGNED UP WITH ODA WHEN I SUBMIT THE GRANT APPLICATION?**

No, there is not a requirement that a grant applicant be signed up with the ODA upon submission of the grant document. The State Meat Inspection Program is not able to accept "State Grant of Inspection" applications until July 1<sup>st</sup> of 2022. Grant applications must state an intent to sign up for Oregon State Inspection and create a path towards complying with the requirements that will be "equal to" current USDA FSIS requirements.

**HOW DO I SIGN UP FOR THE STATE MEAT INSPECTION PROGRAM?**

The Oregon State Meat Inspection program is currently going through a rule making process. We are anticipating that we will be able to start accepting applications for State Inspection in July of 2022.

**I SUBMITTED THE GRANT APPLICATION WITH MY INFORMATION, CHECKED SECTIONS AND BUDGET INFORMATION AND I ALSO INCLUDED A WORD FILE WITH THE NARRATIVE. IS SUBMITTING TWO FILES OK?**

Yes, just makes sure the files are named according to the instruction in the guidance document and the total page count of the two documents together does not exceed 16.

**I HAVE “SUPPLIES” LIKE DIESEL, SANITIZERS AND LABELS THAT I NEED AT STARTUP OF OPERATION. ARE THESE ELIGIBLE EXPENSES?**

No, only supplies that are not consumable would be eligible. On-going operating expenses like insurance and utility usage would not be an eligible grant expense.

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